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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington D.C. 20505

21 September 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Board Principals  
 SUBJECT : Senior Review Panel Review of Estimates

1. The DCI has recently sent to the President an evaluation by the Senior Review Panel of 46 intelligence estimates produced during the first six months of 1982 and the first six months of 1983. The Panel is composed of [redacted]

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2. The Director has asked me to forward to you a copy of the SRP report. The report finds that 1982-83 estimative production was "of extremely high quality and forecast validity and policymaker utility." It further states that 1982 and 1983 production would -- in their experience -- have met most policymaker needs in timeliness, policy issue relevance, analytic quality, readability and estimative judgment. Overall, as policymaking support, the Panel reports that it would regard two-thirds to three-quarters of the papers as "superior to outstanding," with the percentage rising as one moves from 1982 to 1983. Of the 46 estimates, they cite only one they considered failed, [redacted]

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3. Both the Director and I believe you and your senior staff may find the SRP review of interest and value. This very positive report is a reflection of the high quality of effort being contributed across the entire Community at all levels. [redacted]

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Robert M. Gates  
 Chairman, National Intelligence Council

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